

In the Abstract:

Please amend the Abstract to read as follows:

A catheter insertion sheath ~~is disclosed. The sheath includes~~ assembly (100) including a tubular sheath body (106) having a proximal end (102), a distal end (104), and a hollow passage (107) extending between the proximal end and the distal end. A handle portion (110,114) is disposed at the proximal end of the tubular sheath. A clamp (120;300;400) extends from the handle portion for releasably closing the sheath. ~~The clamp~~ prior to insertion of a catheter thereinto and includes a relatively movable portion (130) or portions (310,310';410,410') that is or are movable between an open position and a closed position, wherein, when the clamp is in the open position, fluid may flow through the hollow passage between the proximal end and the distal end and when the clamp is in the closed position, fluid flow is restricted through the hollow passage between the proximal end and the distal end.